

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 071912Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7833

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02188

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF, CINCEUR, CNO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, GW, US, IS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF PHM TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 21540

1. THE FRG FONOFF, AFTER CHECKING WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO ISRAELI ASSOCIATION WITH THE PHM PROGRAM:

A. INQUIRIES WITH MOD HAVE SO FAR REVEALED NO AWARENESS THERE OF ISRAELI INTERESTS IN PHM PROGRAM. A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR STATEMENTS IN PERES-DOD LETTER IS THAT MINISTER LEBER GAVE HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCES ABOUT AGREEING TO ISRAELI PURCHASES WITHOUT INFORMING HIS SUBORDINATES. MOD PLANS TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH THE MINISTER ASAP BUT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET ANSWER BEFORE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11. (WE WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SOON AS WE HAVE A REPLY.)

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B. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE FONOFF AND MOD THAT, SHOULD

THE ISRAELIS MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO PURCHASE
PATROL HYDROFOILS DEVELOPED IN THIS PROGRAM, IT
WOULD REQUIRE THE AGREEMENT NOT ONLY OF THE THREE
PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS BUT OF THE CONFERENCE
OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS(CNAD), SINCE THE
PROGRAM HAS BEEN CATEGORIZED AS A NATO PROJECT.

2. OUR CONTACT OBSERVED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE
TO BE LOOKED AT CAREFULLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ITS
GERMAN-MADE COMPONENTS TO ENSURE THAT SALES TO ISRAEL
WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH THE FRG'S POLICY OF NOT
SENDING CERTAIN TYPES OF "GENERAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT"
TO AREAS OF TENSION.
HILLENBRAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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